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SubSpec
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106-03
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United States Patent and Trademark Office
Commissioner for patents
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09/12/2003

Application No. 10/026,567
GORISCH, WOLFRAM
Examiner: Hau V Phan
Art Unit 3618
Office action, mailing date 08/21/2003

RECEIVED
SEP 25 2003
GROUP 3600

The following is my reply to the Office action.

Ad 1 (Acknowledgment)
noted

Ad 2 (Election/Restrictions)

Claims 5 and 6, Fig. 8 have been grouped by USPTO other than the elected group I. I understand that this was necessary because claim 5 seems to be less restrictive than claim 1. On the other hand, the use of universal joints is to be seen under the notion of the species in group I and should not be withdrawn from further consideration. I would prefer to find a solution which is acceptable to USPTO in proposing to shift claim 5 into claim 1 and shift the according phrase from claim 1 into claim 5. Claims 6 and 9 are not less restrictive than claim 1 and should therefore be kept.

Provided that the claims are amended as proposed, I ask USPTO to include the species of group II into group I and delete group number II.

The species of group III (flexing means) and of group IV (shock absorber) are still nonelected species and shall remain withdrawn from consideration.

Please decide, whether this is acceptable. If not, the election shall be kept as before.

Ad 3
Refer to ad 2.

Ad 4 (Abstract)
Correction done, see amended text.